

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 7 and 8 being independent. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 have been amended herein. Support for the changes to the claims can be found with respect to reference numeral 705 in Figure 7B, 1006 and 1007 in Figure 10, and 1108 and 1109 in Figure 11. Of course, the claims are not intended to be limited in scope to these preferred embodiments.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,527,360 (Otsuki et al.). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Otsuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,988,784 (Takemura et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

If the downstream conveyance means operates while holding the printing medium, the rear end of the printing medium may vibrate to cause deviations in the distance between the discharge surface of the nozzles and the printing medium and thereby deteriorate the quality of the printed image. Accordingly, when recording the rear end, the downstream conveyance means can be stopped and the nozzles to be used for printing can

be changed at each scan the printhead instead of conveying the printing medium. Note for example, page 25, lines 5-16.

As discussed previously, Otsuki et al. relates to a printer that can accurately position image data by a recording medium. As understood by Applicants, as shown in Figure 14, printing of the rear side of the printing medium is performed by nozzles of the upstream side, when the printing medium is conveyed only by the conveyance means at the downstream side. As shown in Figure 10, a front end of the printing medium is printed with the nozzles of the downstream side when conveying the printing medium only by the upstream side conveyance means.

Otsuki et al. does not disclose or suggest at least, when the printing medium is held by the second (downstream) conveyance means, setting or selecting nozzles to be used for printing from the nozzles of the printhead arranged at the downstream side in the conveyance direction, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 7 and 8. Nor does Otsuki et al. disclose or suggest that (selection of) the nozzles to be used for printing at each scan of the printhead are changed when printing a rear side of the printing medium, as is also recited in the independent claims. Such a feature is not taught in Otsuki et al. at column 12, lines 16-37.

Thus, Otsuki et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Takemura et al. was cited for allegedly teaching an association table.

However, Takemura et al. is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Otsuki et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 7 and 8 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 7 and 8. Dependent Claims 3, 5 and 6 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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